



February 26, 2007

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
Room #8B-201
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Docket WT 07-16

RE: Proposal to Offer Decency-Filtered Broadband Internet Service

Dear Chairman Martin,

In my forty years in the priesthood, few developments in our culture have caused me so much distress as the spread of pornography on the internet. I recently published a Pastoral Letter entitled "Bought with a Price: Pornography and the Attack on the Living Temple of God," which I have enclosed with this letter. The pastoral letter articulates the great and growing devastation caused to families and children by pornography. As I wrote in my pastoral letter, this plague stalks the souls of men, women and children, ravages the bonds of marriage and victimizes the most innocent among us. I know that this is an area of concern to you too, and I hope that our shared concern can lead to progress in technological solutions to protect against the devastating effects of pornography. This, then, is the purpose of my letter.

I have learned about the breadth of the problems that pornography is causing from counselors at our various Catholic social service agencies, from Catholic school teachers, youth ministers, and religious education teachers, from parents and from my involvement in the Religious Alliance against Pornography. All of these sources have confirmed through incontrovertible evidence that pornography is crippling users of pornography, those who take part in the production of pornography and the families of all of those involved in the production, distribution, sale and use of pornography.

The impact of pornography upon persons and families is as diverse as the channels through which pornographic images can be sought. For the users of pornography the impact is presumed to be subtle. In reality, pornography is tearing apart marriages and decimating families by sowing the seeds of lying, addiction, infidelity, and sin. Young Christians, struggling to live up to the demands of the disciples amidst a culture that has abandoned the virtue of chastity. Spouses, especially husbands, are escaping to the sinful world of fantasy and being kept from growing in the fidelity inherent of their marriage vocations. Priests and others in religious life, whose vows of celibacy are constantly under attack from a culture that views those vows as unhealthy

Office of the Bishop ✠ Diocese of Arlington

200 North Glebe Road • Suite 914 • Arlington, Virginia 22203 • Tel: (703) 841-2511 • Fax: (703) 524-5028

and impossible, may reach out for the false comfort of impurity in moments of weakness, bringing scandal to the Church. Even single men and women must fight the scourge of pornography as they attempt to discern God's call in their lives.

Many have argued irrationally that the production of pornography is victimless as it is merely an expression of free speech. Many have said that there can be no victims of an industry that is built on free will. Nothing can be further from the truth. Producers of pornographic images prey on the vulnerable and needy, and usher them into a industry that entices them to deeper and darker behaviors until physical harm is inevitable.

My Pastoral Letter strives to fully articulate the nature of the real harm done to all of the victims of the productions and viewing of pornography: from the individuals exploited in production to the children of the user. I also attempted to share advice with parents about how to protect their families from this scourge. Unfortunately, the power of the Internet has become the most prolific source of the distribution of pornography. The Church and Christians everywhere must join with Internet providers to find the best solutions to this growing and seemingly unlimited supply of pornography. In my estimation, the best solutions available to families now are network level filters that block pornographic content before it ever reaches the users computer. The filter that will be integrated into the free, national broadband data network proposed by M2Z Networks, Inc. is an example of the type of functionality we believe will help families protect themselves from Internet pornography. Furthermore, this service will offer the great educational benefits of the Internet to families in a much safer way than is currently available.

Faithfully in Christ,

+ Paul S. Loverde

Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde
Bishop of Arlington

cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission

Jonathan S. Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission

Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission